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AUTHORITY

AGO ltr, 29 Apr 1980; AGO ltr, 29 Apr 1980



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

21 April 1970

N 5086

AGDA (M) (14 Apr 70)

FOR /OT-UT-701036

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion,

13th Artillery, Bertod Buding 31 January 1970 (8)

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-Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 4b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT UT, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

1 Incl as

finneth G. Nacklam KENNETH G. WICKHAM Major General, USA The Adjutant General

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US Army Logistics, Doctrine Systems & Readiness Agency US Army Mobility Equipment Research & Development Center 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY HEADQUARTERS 7TH BATTALION 13TH ARTILLERY APO 96368

AVGK-AA-C

31 January 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters 7th Battalion 13th Artillery for Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS, CSFOR-65 (R2)(U).

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1. (C) Section 1. Significant Activities.

a. (C) General

- (1) Final implementation of Keystone Cardinal (OPCRD 13-69) took place during this quarter. The 7th Battalion 13th Artillery relieved the 41st Artillery Group and was fully operational on 1 November 1969. The 7th Battalion 13th Artillery (Group) was formed consisting of 7/13th Arty and 7/15th Arty effective 15 November 1969. Upon inactivation of HHB, 41st Artillery Group, the 7/13th Arty Bn Group came under the direct control of HQ, IFFORCEV Artillery
- (2) During the past quarter the battalion's mission remained the same, that of General Support of US, RVNAF and FWMAF in the 22d ARVN Division, 48h Infantry Division, Capital RCK Infantry Division and the 173d Airborne Brigad. (Separate) areas of operation. On 11 January 1970, 7th Bn 13th Arty assumed the Artillery Warning Control Center responsibilities for the scuthern half of the Lee Area of Operations. The AWCC was escablished at Battery C, 7th Bn 13th Arty located at LZ Salem (BR 933805). In conjunction with the implementation of OPLAN 4-69 (Metro Media) HQ IFFORCEV Arty, Battery A, 7th Bn 13th Arty, moved by combination of land and sea from Kha Trang to LZ Action (BR 264476) and assumed the mission of General Support of US, RVNAF and FWMAF with priority of fires to 1st Bn, 69th Armor.
- (3) The battalion is in the process of revemping its defensive posture throughout the battalion. Primary consideration is being given to perimeter defense with installation of new perimeter wire, observation towers and fighting bunkers. The battalion also acquired an 81mm morter for self illumination and was assigned two (2) M-42 "Dusters" for self defense of Camp Fidel. On 27 January 1970, Buttery C was assigned an infantry platoon to assist in self defense of LZ Salem.
- (4) On 13 December 1969 per General Order 70, Headquarters Department of the Army, dated 13 November 1969, the 7th Battalion 13th Artillery was awarded the Meritorious Unit Citation for service in RVN, for period 9 November 1966 to 31 December 1968.

FOR OT UT 701036 Inclosure

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Artillery for Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS, CSFCR-65 (R2)(U).

- (5) Throughout this quarter the battalion, through Brttery C, continued to provide support for the 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate). Battery C provided fire support primarily to the 1st and 3d Battalions (Airborne) 503d Infantry.
- (6) With the exception of its normal support functions, the primary activities of the battalien were centered around Pacification.
- (t) In the Associate Battory Program, Battery C of this battalion continued to assist Battory C, 222d ARVN Artillory and Battory B assisted Battory A, 222d ARVN Artillory. Visits to associate batteries totaled 19 and 12 classes were presented. These included boresighting, laying the battery, safety, storage of ammunition, care and maintenance of 105mm howitzer, assembly of firing locks, use of wind cards, computations of high angle fire, daily accuracy checks, aiming post displacement, direct fire and vehicle maintenance. The Battalion Commander 7th Bn 13th Arty made three (3) visits to ARVN Associate Batteries during this reporting period. Included was a command visit to LZ Courage (C Btry, 222d ARVN Arty) with a maintenance team and much needed supplies and materials.
- (b) Battery C, located at LZ Salem, constructed a children's recreation area for Duong Lieu Hamlet. The recreation area was christened "Salem Park" and opened for use on 9 January 1970. All materials and man hours were provided by officers and men of Battery C with technical assistance from Service Battery.

b. (C) Intelligence

- (1) Forward Observers assigned to the battalion during this reporting period were deployed as follows:
- (a) Battery A deployed its forward observers in support of the 5th Special Forces until its move from Nha Trang to LZ Action on 11 January 1970. Consequently these forward observers were not available for the battalions utilization during that period.
- (b) Two forward observers from Batteries B and C were deployed to support a Mobile Strike Force operation in the Nha Trang area from 26 December 1969 to 31 December 1969.
- (2) The battalion liaison section to Binh Dinh Self Defense Area provided targeting for the Binh Dinh and Qui Nhon Self Defense Areas. Interdiction fires were planned daily for Bettery B, 7th Bn 13th Arty, is support of ARVN elements in these areas.
- (3) The battalion gained operational control of a total of four AN/PPS-5 Radars. Two were OPCON to Battery A during its stay in Nha Trang. Upon relocation of Battery A, the Radars were attached to the 2d Bn 17th Arty. The other two of these radars were deployed in support of Binh Dinh Self Defense Area. The majority of sightings were of three to seven personnel in the open. Although there were no confirmed kills, all missions terminated with rounds on target and dispersion of personnel.

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Artillery for Period Ending 31 January 1970, ACS, CSFOR-65 (R2)(U).

(4) Overall energy activity remained at a relatively low level during this reporting period. One high point was experienced during the period 4 January 1970 to 11 January 1970 during which Phu Cat hir base received 122mm and 140mm rockets and numerous other Landing Zones received mortar attacks. The rocket attack on Phu Cat hir Base marked the first time that 122mm and 140mm rockets had been used by the enemy in the Einh Dinh hrea. The Battalion experienced one casualty during the period due to enemy activity. On 15 January 1970, while a passenger in a 2½ ten truck, a member of Battery C was slightly wounded by sniper fire. The enemy maintains the capability of interdicting lines of communications, employing snipers, attacking friendly bases with mortars and rockets, and of launching up to multi-company ground attacks against isolated friendly outposts. The enemies orimary objective remains the disruption of the Facification Program and the infliction of US casualties.

c. (C) Operations and Training Activities

(1) Onorations

- (a) The battalion conducted 92 days of continuous operations during the quarter for a cumulative total of 1178 days of combat without major difficulties. On 16 January 1970 at Battery B. 7th Bn 13th Arty the Battalion Commander fired the 750,000th round expended by the battalion in support of combat operations in RVN.
- (b) In respense to OPLAN 4-69 (Metro Media) IFFORCEV Arty, Battery A departed Nha Trang at 091530H January 1970 enroute to LZ Action to relieve in place and assume the mission of Bottery A, 2d Bn 17th Arty. Battery A closed and was ready to fire at 111640H January 1970. Simultaneous with the deployment, Battery A became OPCON to the 52d Arty Group and assumed the mission of General Support to US, RVNAF, and FWNAF with priority of fires to 1st Bn 69th Armer. On 20 January 1970, Battery A became OPCON to the 7th Bn 15th Arty and continued its present mission.
- (c) During the quarter, Battery A accounted for all tactical moves of this battalian. It conducted four displacements, experiencing 18 days of split battery operations, in addition to its redeployment to LZ Action.

(2) Training

- (a) Headquarters B there assumed a major role in the battalien's training program by conducting replacement training for 152 new members of the battalien. Replacement training was previously accomplished by Service Battery.
- (b) Entteries B and C received battery evaluations conducted by the IFFORCEV arty Firing Battery Evaluation Team on 8 and 9 January 1970. No femal scores were given.
- (c) Six officers of this battalian attended the Fire Direction Officer Training Course (FDOTC) and six officers and four enlisted personnel attended the Forward Observer Training Course (FOTC).

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(d) The bettalien's liaison section at Binh Dinh Self Defense area (BDSDA) conducted instruction on social observation procedures for 25 personnel of the 203d RAC Plateon lecated in Qui Nhon.

d. (U) Logistics

- (1) During the quarter Service Battery performed normal support functions through the Battalian Maintenance and S-4 Sections. Towards the latter part of the quarter, priority was placed on obtaining necessary supplies and equipment for the relocation of Battery A from Nha Trang to LZ-action. The S-4 section provided regular conveys to 12 action transporting building materials and supplies for construction of personnel bunkers and defensive fortifications.
- (2) Emphasis on maintenance continued with all batteries receiving community. All batteries received a rating of satisfactory.

e. (U) Civil ..ffcirs

- (1) The battalian civil affairs continued in the implementation of the overall pacification program. During this period 2,000 board foot of acrap lumber and 9 culverts were provided for the following:
 - (a) Hono improvements in Ducing Liou Hamlet.
 - (b) Repair of Orphanage in Tuy Phuse District.
- (c) Repair and construction of a section of read in Tuy Physic District.
- (2) The battalian supplied approximately 6000 gallens of edible garbage per month to the villages of Phu by and Tuy Phuce Districts.
- (3) The battalian distributed over 200 pounds of cardy and elething to the Orphanage in Tuy Phuse District.
- (4) The battalien supplied ever 1200 pounds of meat to the villages of Deng Thieu and the Orphanage in Tuy Phuce District.
- (5) To improve the effectiveness of and lend greater emphasis to the battalion civil affairs program, an additional duty, Civil Affairs Officer, was established. The duty of the Civil Affairs Officer is to coordinate the overall civil affairs and pacification efforts of the battalion.

f. (U) Porsonnel

- (1) The personnel status of the 7th Bn 13th arty is as follows:
 - (a) Personnel strength as of 31 January 1970:

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	Officors	Warrent Officers	Enlisted
<i>i</i> uthorized	38	5	484
Assigned	35	5	436
Present for Duty	28	5	402

(b) Critical MOS Status as of 31 January 1970:

MOS	Grade	Authorized	<u> Assigned</u>	30 Day Loss
13B40	E7	3	1	2
13840	E6	22	18	7
13B40	55	21	1	1
13B40	E 4	18	8	4
13250	138	* 7	4	0
31B20	E4	1	Ó	0
31G40	E5	3	0	0
31G50	E8	1	0	0
36K20	E1-E4	40	24	5
71H20	E5	6	3	1
71H20	D4	5	1	0
73020	L4-E5	2	0	0
82C40	E6	_2_	- <u>1</u>	0_
	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	131	61	20

(c) Projected Officer losses by grade as of 31 January 1970:

	30 Day	60 Day	60 Day
LTC	0	1	0
MAJ	0	1	1.
CPT	2	1	6
LT	0	0	0
WO	_1	_0_	_0_
	3	3	7

(d) Projected Unlisted Losses:

30 Doy	60 Dc3	90 Day
42	57	49

(e) The assigned strength by battery as of 31 January 1970:

	Officers	Warrant Officors	<u>Erlisted</u>
HQ	18	1	118
4	٠ 5	0	88
B/.	5	0	86
C	5	0	83
SVC	2	4	56

COMFINENTIAL

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SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Loarned, Headquarters 7th Sattalion 13th
Artillory for Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS, CSFOR-65 (R2)(U).

- g. (U) Other. During this reporting period oleven dignitaries visited the Battalion (See Incl 2).
- 2. (C) Section 2. Lessons Learned. Commander's Observations. Evaluations. and Recommendations.
 - A. Personnel: NONE
 - E. Intelligence: NONE
 - C. Operations:
- (1) OBSERVATION: Due to the time consuming (formal) method of conducting destruction missions, many have been terminated because of weather, time and often fuel consumption for cerial observers without actually accomplishing the mission.

FIGURATION: Considering the limitations described above and the tendency of aerial observers to creep within a few meters of a target prior to fire for effect rather than establishing a bracket, the Fire Direction Center, can, by using the mil relation formula and the observer sensings, cause a bracket to be established. Despite range dispersion, the experienced Fire Direction Center can determine a new adjusted quadrant without firing the required rounds to obtain six definite range sensings. Therefore, a target can be destroyed in less time and with fewer rounds expended.

RECOMMENDATION: That units with similar problems consider the modified destruction mission described above.

(2) OBSERVATION: When fired in conjunction with illumination, the variable time fuze often functions prematurely.

EVALUATION: If high explosive rounds with variable time fuzes are fired in the immediate vicinity of illumination ammunition and if the direction of the wind, height of illumination burst and time of flight are not considered, one can expect numerous variable time fuzes to detonate prematurely due to the proximity of the illumination.

RECOMMENDATION: When the variable time fuze is utilized and fired simultaneously with illumination careful coordination is necessary to prevent a premature burst that could result in an artillery accident or incident.

- D. Organization: NONE
- E. Training: NONE
- F. Logistics: NONE
- G. Communications:
- (1) OBSERVATION: Whip and ground plane (RC 292) antenna elements often become it possible to disconnect after assembly because of the accumulation

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of rust and corrosion at the connecting points.

EVALUATION: Rust and corrosion build-up on antenna elements is rapid in RVN because of unfavorable climatic conditions. Frequent preventive maintenance and/or greasing of connection points have been suggested as methods of alleviating this problem. However, the practice of greasing connection points has not proven effective when not followed up with frequent proventive maintenance. Due to operational commitments in RVN, antenna resintenance is not always feasible. This unit uses Silicon Compound non-conducting (5870-221-5903) on the end of the connecting elements to prevent rust and corrosion build up on the antenna.

RECOMMENDATION: Silicon lubricant should be used for protection against rust and corrosion build up on antonna elements, particularly when frequent proventative maintenance is not feasible.

(2) OBSERVATION: Additional life can be obtained from the K-49 keying relay, used to activate the blower motor on the RT 524 receiver-transmitter, if the item is rotated 180 degrees and then reinstalled in the radio.

EVALUATION: On all occasions in which the relay was rotated, the radio functioned effectively. The cause of this irregularity has not been determined, nor how much additional life can be achieved. This practice can make it possible to keep a radio off deadline if a K-49 replacement is not available. Rotating the relay clearly indicates that the part is defective and should therefore be requisitioned.

H. Motorials: NONE

I. Other:

OBSELVATIONS: Considerations for installing and maintaining an effective defensive perimeter.

EVALUATIONS: Perimeter wire becomes so overgrown with vegetation, that the concertina barrier around a compound is commonly identified and referred to as "Green Line". Concertina which is only slightly overgrown with vegetation offers no obstacle to a US soldier, much less to a well trained sapper. A large percentage of concertina/tanglefoot presently installed in Vietnam only gives a false sense of security. Effectiveness of wire barriers is not only negated by vegetation but also by small ravines, gullies or mounds which afford both cover and concealment when used by the intruder. At best, trip flares offer only a slight increase in effectiveness of barriers. An intruder who spends hours penetrating a perimeter can detect and avoid trip flares.

Perimeter wire, to be effective must be placed on barren soil with no sudden changes in elevation which offer concealment to an intruder. In addition the barrier must be illuminated and observed at all times. Observations must be from towers since heavy concertina provides concealment if observers are at or near ground level.

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Installation of wire barriers meguines extensive prior preparation of the ground over which the barrier is to be placed as well as the area between the barriers. Too often the command is not willing to expend the man hours and material to install a secure perimeter until after the fact. A case in point is the recent reported loss of 4.5 million dollars in aircraft which could have been prevented had a fraction of this amount been spent for installing an effective perimeter.

RECOMMENDATION: Outlined below are the minimum procedures required to install an effective perimeter.

- 1. Using a bulldozor, remove all vegetation and rough grade a defensive belt thirty to fifty meters wide. Follow up rough grade with a read grader to establish a final contour grade.
- 2. Select exact location for installation of wire barriers. Install desired rows of engineer stakes to secure the wire. Leave a space of at least ten meters between barriers to facilitate cultivation of cleared area.
- 3. Secure six strands of barbod wire to the engineer stakes spaced 4, 6, 8, 10, 10, 10 inches apart with first strand 4 inches above the ground. Insure that the wire is taut.
- 4. Install triple or quadruple concerting and secure to berbed wire and engineer stakes. Run one strand of barbed wire through each roll of concerting which touches the ground and pin the wire to the ground with engineer stakes. Insure that this single strand of berbed wire is taut.
- 5. Spray a heavy concentration of petroloum products (waste oil, diesel, etc.) on soil covered by wire to prevent seed germination and rects from sprouting. Follow up as required to prevent growth. Cultivate between wire barriers. This can be accomplished by pulling a concertina drag behind a tactical vehicle.

This is a legson learned but not practiced. It has cost not only lives but millions of dollars in material damage. We should practice what we have learned.

3. (U) Section 3. Headquarters, Department of the Army Survey Information, Mone

3 Inclosures

1. Firing Battery Tactical
Displacements

2. Vicito by Dignitor - to-

-7th Dn 13th Arty -3. - Organizational Chart

Incl 2 and 3 wd HQ, DA

CHARLES L. JONES /

LTC, Field Artillory

Consonding

AVFA-AT-D (31 Jan 70) 1st Ind SUBJECT: Operational deport-Lessons Learned, Headquarters 7th Battalion 13th Artillery for Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS, CSFOR-65 (R2)(L)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery, APO 96350

TO: Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam, ATTN: AVFA-GC-OT, APO 96350

This headquarters has reviewed subject ONLL and concurs.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Mille Cont

WALTER J. NEHL Lieutenant Colonel, ADA Adjutant

cf: DA, ACSFOd (2) SO, 7th Bn, 13th Arty

(1.c MAR 3

AVFA-GC-HIST (31 Jan 70) 2d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion,
1)th Artillery, Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS, CSFOR-65 (R2)
(U)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350

- TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVRIGO-DST, APO 96375
- 1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed and evaluated subject Operational Report-Lessons Learned and forwarding indorsement and concurs.
- 2. (U) Reference Critical MDS status paragraph If (1) (b). Of the three E7, 13B40 slots one is vecant with a diversionary fill-action projected by M4, USARV. Only one E8, 13Z50 vecancy exists with fill-action programmed for April 1970.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

W Steen-11-Take

CF:

1 - CG, IFFORCEV ARTY

1 - 00 7th BN, 13th ARTY

AVHCC-DST (31Jan70) 3d Ind SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters 7th Battalion 13th Artillery for Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS, CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375

2 0 MAR 15/8

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO 96558

This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 January 1970 from Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery and concurs with the comments of indorsing headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

I. D. MURRAY

PT, AGC Contant Adjutant General

Cy furn: 7th Bn, 13th ARTY HQ, I FFV GPOP-DT (31 Jan 70) 4th Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery for Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 31 MAR 1977)

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

Assi AG

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

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AVGK-AA-C 31 Jenuary 1970 SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters 7th Battalion 13th Artillery for Period Ending 31 January 1979, MCS, CSFOR-65 (R2)(U).

FIRING BATTERY TACTICAL DISPLACEMENTS

BATTERY	DISPLACE ENTS	MISSION	Incl Dates
A Plat 105mm	Hontre vic & return	DS for Recondo Opn	9 Nov - 17 Nov 69
A Plat 105mm:	Hontre vic & return	DS for Recondo Opn	29 Nov - 4 Dec 69
A Plat 105mm	Hontre vic & return	DS for Recondo Opn	19 Dec - 22 Dec 69
A Btry iO5mm	LZ Action BR 264476	GS, US, RVNAF, FWNAF with priority of fires to 1st Bn 69th Armor	11 Jan - 31 Jan 70
		FIRING BATTERY LOCATIONS	
BTRY	LOCATION	MISSION	
A 105mm	LZ Action	GS, US, RVNAF, FWMAF, Priority of fires 1/69th Armor	11 Jan - 31 Jan 70
B 105mm	Ky Son South	GS, US, RVNAF, FWMAF in BDSDA	1 Nov 69 - 31 Jan 70
C 105mm	LZ Salem	GS, US, RVNAF, FWAF, Reinf 3/319th Arty	1 Nov 69 - 31 Jan 70

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CO 766 Bankaldan 1841 A 4111			
CO, 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery			
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